



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6678

LCO No. 4453

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

***AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR
PROFESSIONS REGULATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this
2 section: (1) "Licensee" means a funeral director or embalmer licensed
3 pursuant to chapter 385 of the general statutes; and (2) "department"
4 means the Department of Public Health; and (3) "registration period"
5 means the twelve-month period that commences on the date of
6 renewal of the licensee's license, as provided in section 19a-88 of the
7 general statutes, and is current and valid.

8 (b) Each licensee shall complete a minimum of six hours of
9 continuing education during each registration period. The continuing
10 education shall be in areas related to the licensee's practice, including,
11 but not limited to, bereavement care, business management and
12 administration, religious customs and traditions related to funerals,
13 cremation services, cemetery services, natural sciences, preneed
14 services, restorative arts and embalming, federal and state laws
15 governing funeral services, counseling, funeral service merchandising,

16 sanitation and infection control, organ donation or hospice care. The
17 continuing education shall consist of courses offered or approved by
18 the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice, educational
19 offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health care
20 institution or courses offered by a regionally accredited institution of
21 higher education.

22 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the
23 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education
24 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate
25 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for
26 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirement.
27 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit the
28 certificate to the department.

29 (d) A licensee who fails to comply with the provisions of this section
30 shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to section 20-227 of the
31 general statutes.

32 (e) The provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to
33 a licensee (1) during the year immediately following the date on which
34 the licensee's license is renewed for the first time; or (2) who has been
35 continuously licensed since January 1, 1963. The department may, for a
36 licensee who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver of the
37 continuing education requirements for a specific period of time or may
38 grant the licensee an extension of time in which to fulfill the
39 requirements.

40 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) On and after October 1,
41 2004, each alcohol and drug counselor licensed or certified pursuant to
42 chapter 376b of the general statutes shall complete a minimum of
43 fifteen hours of continuing education each registration period. For
44 purposes of this section, registration period means the twelve-month
45 period for which a license or certificate has been renewed in
46 accordance with section 19a-88 of the general statutes and is current
47 and valid. The continuing education shall be in areas related to the

48 individual's practice. Qualifying continuing education activities are
49 educational offerings sponsored by a hospital or other licensed health
50 care institutions or courses offered by a regionally accredited
51 institution of higher education.

52 (b) Each licensee or certificate holder shall obtain a certificate of
53 completion from the provider of continuing education activities for all
54 continuing education hours successfully completed. Each licensee or
55 certificate holder shall maintain such written documentation for a
56 minimum of three years following the license or certificate renewal
57 date for which the activity satisfies continuing education requirements.
58 Certificates of completion shall be submitted by the licensee or
59 certificate holder to the Department of Public Health upon the
60 department's request. A licensee or certificate holder who fails to
61 comply with the continuing education requirements may be subject to
62 disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (r) of section 20-74s or
63 section 19a-17 of the general statutes.

64 (c) The continuing education requirements shall be waived for
65 licensees and certificate holders applying for licensure or certification
66 renewal for the first time. The department may, for a licensee or
67 certificate holder who has a medical disability or illness, grant a waiver
68 of the continuing education requirements for a specific period of time
69 or may grant the licensee or certificate holder an extension of time in
70 which to fulfill the requirements.

71 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) Each person licensed in
72 accordance with the provisions of sections 20-206a to 20-206e,
73 inclusive, of the general statutes shall complete a minimum of forty-
74 eight hours of continuing education every four years. Such four-year
75 period shall commence on the first date of renewal of the licensee's
76 license after October 1, 2003. The continuing education shall be in areas
77 related to the licensee's practice, including, but not limited to, courses
78 offered by providers that are approved by the National Certification
79 Board for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

80 (b) No more than twelve continuing education units shall be
81 completed via the Internet or distance learning and no more than
82 twenty-four continuing education units shall be obtained from
83 providers that are not approved by the National Certification Board for
84 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. For purposes of this section,
85 "continuing education unit" means fifty to sixty minutes of
86 participation in accredited continuing professional education.

87 (c) The Department of Public Health may require an applicant for
88 license renewal to submit evidence of continuing education on forms
89 that may be prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall maintain
90 records, or certificates or other evidence of compliance with continuing
91 education requirements for a period of six years. Failure on the part of
92 the licensee to demonstrate that such continuing education
93 requirements have been met shall be grounds for disciplinary action
94 pursuant to section 20-206c of the general statutes.

95 Sec. 4. Section 19a-515 of the general statutes is repealed and the
96 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2003*):

97 (a) Each nursing home administrator's license issued pursuant to the
98 provisions of sections 19a-511 to 19a-520, inclusive, shall be renewed
99 annually, in accordance with section 19a-88, except for cause, by the
100 Department of Public Health, upon forms to be furnished by said
101 department [upon proof of completion of such continuing education
102 courses as may be required by regulations adopted by the department,
103 in accordance with chapter 54,] and upon the payment to said
104 department, by each applicant for license renewal, of the sum of fifty
105 dollars. Each such fee shall be remitted to the Department of Public
106 Health on or before the date prescribed under section 19a-88. Such
107 renewals shall be granted [subject to the regulations of said
108 department, unless it] unless said department finds the applicant has
109 acted or failed to act in such a manner or under such circumstances as
110 would constitute grounds for suspension or revocation of such license.

111 (b) On and after October 1, 2004, each licensee shall complete a

112 minimum of twenty hours of continuing education during each
 113 registration period. The continuing education shall be in areas related
 114 to the licensee's practice. Qualifying continuing education activities are
 115 courses offered or approved by the Connecticut Association of
 116 Healthcare Facilities, the Connecticut Association of Not-For-Profit
 117 Providers, the Connecticut Chapter of the American College of Health
 118 Care Administrators, any accredited college or university, or programs
 119 presented or approved by the National Continuing Education Review
 120 Service of the National Association of Boards of Examiners of Long
 121 Term Care Administrators, or by federal or state departments or
 122 agencies. For purposes of this section, "registration period" means the
 123 twelve-month period for which a license has been renewed in
 124 accordance with section 19a-88 and is current and valid.

125 (c) Each licensee shall obtain a certificate of completion from the
 126 provider of the continuing education for all continuing education
 127 hours that are successfully completed and shall retain such certificate
 128 for a minimum of three years following the license renewal date for
 129 which the activity satisfies the continuing education requirements.
 130 Upon request by the department, the licensee shall submit the
 131 certificate to the department. A licensee who fails to comply with the
 132 continuing education requirements may be subject to disciplinary
 133 action pursuant to section 19a-517.

134 (d) The continuing education requirements shall be waived for
 135 licensees applying for licensure renewal for the first time. The
 136 department may, for a licensee who has a medical disability or illness,
 137 grant a waiver of the continuing education requirements for a specific
 138 period of time or may grant the licensee an extension of time in which
 139 to fulfill the requirements.

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| This act shall take effect as follows: | |
| Section 1 | <i>October 1, 2003</i> |
| Sec. 2 | <i>October 1, 2003</i> |
| Sec. 3 | <i>October 1, 2003</i> |

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| Sec. 4 | <i>October 1, 2003</i> |
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